



Medicaid Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Options

Report Overview

Report Requirements

- The Departments of Health and Human Services created the LTSS report in response to SB140 and intent language from SB03
- Legislative language required the Departments to study and report on:
 - Options to maximize the number of people kept out of nursing facilities; and
 - The risks and benefits of various LTSS options

Utah's LTSS Strategy



Implement LTSS programs that provide needed services in a way that:

- Allows the State to manage program growth
- Does not increase entitlement programs
- Does not leave the State with open-ended funding obligations

Utah's LTSS Strategy



With these strategic elements in mind, historically, the State has:

- Relied on HCBS waivers because they allow flexibility to:
 - 1) Limit the number of individuals served
 - 2) Target populations served
- Not implemented State Plan HCBS because these programs typically lack the flexibility to limit the number of people served and define target populations served

Utah's Current LTSS System



Utah's continuum of Medicaid-funded LTSS is comprised of an array of programs including:

- Eight Home and Community Based Services Waivers
- State Plan Home Health and Personal Care
- Nursing facility services and services provided in intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities (ICFs)

Utah's Current LTSS System



- In FY 2015, 19,539 individuals received Medicaid-funded LTSS
 - 11,854 individuals received HCBS (home health, personal care, and/or HCBS waiver services)
 - 7,685 individuals received facility-based services (nursing facilities or ICFs)
 - 52% of LTSS spending was on HCBS
- In a 2013 Study, Utah's LTSS was ranked as 1 of 12 highly-efficient state programs

Analyzing New LTSS Programs



The Departments:

- Analyzed LTSS options with the State's LTSS strategy in mind; and
- Assessed whether available (with some options) enhanced federal funding would be sufficient to cover costs related to increased service utilization and increases in the number of individuals served

Recommendation Categories



The Departments made recommendations under the following categories:

- ***Recommended Option*** improves programs and services and can likely be accomplished within existing appropriations
- ***Recommended, but Subject to Availability of Funding*** can be expected to improve programs and services, but will likely require additional funding, but would not result in new entitlement programs nor loss of State budgetary control
- ***Not Recommended*** describes programs that will create a new entitlement, result in open-ended budgetary obligations, and/or loss of State programmatic control
- ***Requires Additional Evaluation*** describes programs that require additional review prior to the Departments making recommendations

Recommendations

- *Recommended Option*
 - Evaluate opportunities to redirect ongoing funding from DSPD’s state-only funded programs, to their HCBS waiver programs
- *Recommended but Subject to Availability of Funding*
 - Evaluate HCBS coverage of housing-related activities and services
 - Review DSPD’s in-home services rates and determine if there is sufficient access to these services

Recommendations

- *Not Recommended*
 - Money Follows the Person
 - Community First Choice Option
 - LTSS Balancing Incentive Program
- *Requires Additional Evaluation*
 - 1915(i) State Plan HCBS Services
 - Unlike most State Plan services, this program has a unique exception that allows states to target the population they intend to serve

Other Considerations

- The Departments commit to holding regularly scheduled LTSS stakeholder forums (at least annually)
- The Departments acknowledge that in addition to financial cost and budgetary control, policymakers might consider other values, such as quality of life, when making decisions about LTSS policy
- The Departments acknowledge the report represents one vantage point and that additional formal research and review by an independent entity could bring additional perspective to the discussion